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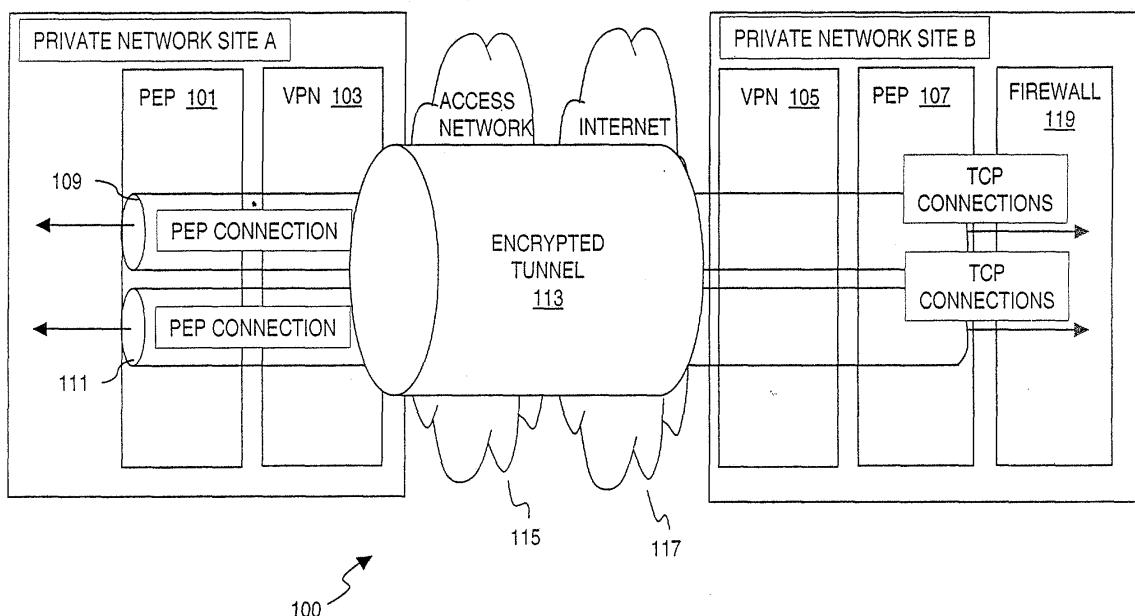
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(54) **Method and system for communicating over a segmented virtual private network (VPN)**

(57) An approach for providing secure communication services is disclosed. A secure (e.g., a Virtual Private Network (VPN)) tunnel from a source node (305) over an access network (307), such as a satellite network, to a destination node (309, 315, 323), wherein the

nodes (305, 309, 315, 323) are external to the network (307). A connection (109, 111) that supports a mechanism for enhancing performance of the network (307) is established for a portion of the secure tunnel (113) that traverses the network (307).

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 25 0179

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	BORDER J ET AL: "PERFORMANCE ENHANCING PROXIES INTENDED TO MITIGATE LINK-RELATED DEGRADATIONS" NETWORK WORKING GROUP REQUEST FOR COMMENTS, XX, XX, June 2001 (2001-06), pages 1-45, XP002262499 * page 3, paragraph 1 * * page 5, paragraph 2.1.1 - page 5, paragraph 2.2 * * page 7, paragraph 2.4 - page 10, paragraph 3.2 * * page 12, paragraph 3.5 * * page 14 - page 16 * * page 21, paragraph 5.1 - page 25 * -----	1-10	H04L29/06
X	WO 01/65805 A (HUGHES ELECTRONICS CORPORATION) 7 September 2001 (2001-09-07) * page 4, line 30 - page 5, line 20 * * page 6, line 9 - page 7, line 19 * * page 10, line 25 - page 16, line 14 * -----	1-10	
A	GLEESON B ET AL: "A FRAMEWORK FOR IP BASED VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS" NETWORK WORKING GROUP REQUEST FOR COMMENTS, XX, XX, February 2000 (2000-02), pages 1-62, XP000864260 * page 4, paragraph 1.0 * * page 7, paragraph 2.1.3 * * page 9, paragraph 2.3 * * page 11, paragraph 3.1.1 * * page 15, paragraph 3.1.6 - page 17, paragraph 3.1.10 * -----	1-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H04L
A	YURCIK W ET AL: "Challenges to the End-to-End Internet Model" PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS, August 2000 (2000-08), XP002267505 * page 3 - page 4 * -----	1-10	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 22 March 2005	Examiner Raposo Pires, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 25 0179

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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22-03-2005

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